

#### **§ 254.23**

(c) The designation order does not preclude compatible land adjustments under the Secretary's authority within the area set aside.

(d) A Forest Service official must prepare a public notice of the proposed townsite sale to be inserted once a week for 4 consecutive weeks in a local newspaper:

(1) The notice shall include descriptive information on the proposed townsite sale and identify the applicant and responsible Forest Service official; and

(2) A period of 45 days, from first date of publication, must be provided for accepting public comments.

#### **§ 254.23 Studies, assessments, and approval.**

(a) After initial public notice has been published, a Forest Service official must conduct the necessary studies and assessments to—

(1) Determine if the applicant has made a satisfactory showing that the land will meet essential community needs resulting from internal growth;

(2) Determine if lands applied for would serve indigenous community objectives that outweigh other public objectives and values which would be served by maintaining such a tract in Federal ownership;

(3) Determine if the sale would substantially affect or impair important scenic, wildlife, environmental, historical, archeological, or cultural values;

(4) Evaluate the applicability of public comments;

(5) Identify the extent of valid existing rights and uses; and

(6) Determine if zoning ordinances, covenants, or standards are needed to protect adjacent National Forest land and to protect or mitigate valid existing rights and uses.

(b) Upon approval, the authorized Forest Service official shall take appropriate steps to have an assessment made of the fair market value of the land and process the conveyance pursuant to §§ 254.24, 254.25, and 254.26.

(c) Upon disapproval, a Forest Service official shall—

(1) Notify the applicant in writing of the reasons the proposal is not acceptable;

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(2) Inform the applicant of alternate proposals under other authorities and/or appeal rights.

#### **§ 254.24 Conveyance.**

(a) Conveyance of the approved tract(s) may be made by a single transaction or by multiple transactions spread over a period of time in accordance with a prearranged schedule.

(b) The authorized Forest Service official shall—

(1) Execute and convey title to the townsite tract(s) by quitclaim deed;

(2) Ensure deeds are free of terms and covenants, except those deemed necessary to ensure protection of adjacent National Forest System land and/or valid existing rights and uses; and

(3) Deliver executed deeds to the governmental body upon—

(i) Adoption of zoning ordinance and development plan if found necessary; and

(ii) Notice from the authorized Forest Service Fiscal Agent that payment has been received.

#### **§ 254.25 Survey.**

The authorized Forest Service official shall conduct or provide for the necessary tract survey and boundary posting of National Forest System land.

#### **§ 254.26 Appraisal.**

Fair market value of townsite tracts shall be determined following Forest Service appraisal procedures and the Uniform Standards for Federal Acquisitions.

### **Subpart C—Conveyance of Small Tracts**

AUTHORITY: Pub. L. 97-465; 96 Stat. 2535.

SOURCE: 49 FR 1185, Jan. 10, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

#### **§ 254.30 Purpose.**

These regulations set forth procedures by which the Secretary of Agriculture may resolve land disputes and management problems pursuant to Pub. L. 97-465, commonly called the Small Tracts Act, by conveying, through sale, exchange, or interchange,